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LM-1352 English Rhetoric I

30 June 2015

Adapted with the Student's
permission to be used as a
sample in the course LM-1352

The Importance of the English Laboratory at the University of Costa Rica, Golfito
Branch

- I. Thesis Statement: the English laboratory of Golfito Branch. It is a useful tool for students to practice the linguistic skills, but the bad functioning and the lack of computers do not allow an adequate use of it; therefore, two solutions to these problems are to invest money to make it bigger, buy more computers and to keep a regular maintenance.
- II. According to an interview applied to the professors of English in Golfito Branch, the English laboratory was installed in 2012.
 - a. The interview for professors and the survey for third year students reveal that the laboratory has three main problems, and those affect the usage of it.
 - b. Those troubles demonstrate that professors and students believe that it is necessary to find solutions to these problems.
- III. The English laboratory presents different problems as a lack of computers and noise produced by other students; however, there are solutions that would help to improve the efficiency of this source.
 - a. According to the interviews and surveys administered professors and students, there are two solutions for the problems.

- b. The solving would permit a better functioning and frequent use of the English laboratory. Nonetheless, each solution always has a difficult path to overcome.
- IV. There are different causes that make problems being difficult to resolve.
 - a. An interview applied to administrators shows that the lack of time is factor that makes hard to keep the maintenance of the computers because of the great amount of work that employers have.
 - b. Besides, another aspect that affects the English laboratory, according to the administrator in charge, is the lack of space because it makes impossible to work appropriately.
- V. Conclusion: Finally, this learning resource is a valuable tool that permits students to progress in their linguistic skills, so it is important to take actions.

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The Importance of the English Laboratory at the University of Costa Rica, Golfito
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The University of Costa Rica is an institution that allows students to study for accomplishing a career. Due to this, the University has different tools, in which student population can take advantage to develop their skills. An example of these tools can be the laboratories that some majors have. Therefore, the university promotes that these buildings can be in the distinct campuses to increase the improvement of the majors that need these. However, these teaching rooms require special conditions which allow them to work well, for example, a constant maintenance. As a result, campuses as Golfito Branch can present problems for keeping laboratories in good conditions. One clear example is the English laboratory of Golfito Branch. It is a useful tool for students to practice the linguistic skills, but the bad functioning and the lack of computers do not allow an adequate use of it; therefore, three solutions to these problems are to invest money to make it bigger, to buy more computers, and to keep a regular maintenance.

According to an interview applied to the professors of English in Golfito Branch, the English laboratory was installed in 2012. This learning room has different purposes as to promote the practice and the development of the linguistic skills in the students

through the use of different teaching resources. In order to obtain the information, a survey was answered by 10 students of third year of the English major. The answers show that this teaching room is important. Nevertheless, the interview for professors and the survey for third year students reveal that the laboratory has three main problems, and those affect the usage of it. In the interview one professor mentioned that one of the problems is the lack of computers. This issue causes that a group of 21 students cannot work because there are only 15 computers in the room. The second problem is that not all the computers work, so it makes even more difficult to use the laboratory. Finally, the third trouble is stated by third year students, which is the noise caused by other students due to the place where the learning room is located; this makes this room not appropriate for attaining the teaching and learning goals. As a consequence, those troubles demonstrate that professors and students believe that it is necessary to find solutions to these problems.

The English laboratory presents different problems as a lack of computers and noise produced by other students; however, there are solutions that would help to improve the efficiency of this source. According to the interviews and surveys administered professors and students, there are two solutions for the problems. The first one is to ask for the authorities to build a bigger new room based on a study of the possible areas where the laboratory can be installed. Consequently, the construction of this room would avoid the excessive noise and the increase of the amount of computers would certainly improve the use of this necessary tool. The second solution is to set a constant maintenance through the elaboration of a schedule that allows keeping the control of the condition of the computers. This resolve would permit a better functioning

and frequent use of the English laboratory. Nonetheless, each solution always has a difficult path to overcome.

There are different causes that make problems being difficult to resolve. The interviews and surveys present different solutions from the students and professors. Notwithstanding, an interview applied to the man in charge of the maintenance shows that the lack of time is factor that makes hard to keep the maintenance of the computers because of the great amount of work that employers have. For this reason, it is important to create schedules that help to distribute time among people in charge of this learning room. Another alternative would be to hire employers with the objective of having one specific person to maintain this room in good conditions. Besides, another aspect that affects the English laboratory, according to the administrator in charge, is the lack of space because it makes impossible to work appropriately. Due to this, the construction of a new laboratory would allow to resolve the problem since the new room could have the enough space for keeping the correct maintenance that the English laboratory deserves.

In conclusion, the University needs to solve problems in the English laboratory. These troubles can be resolved by taking into consideration the solutions that professors, administrators, and students suggest. At the same time, the solving of this situation would demonstrate the interest from the institution to improve the current installations in order to find good results by using this resource efficiently. On the other hand, administrators from Golfito Branch have to make changes in the administration. These modifications would allow the enhancement of the procedures to keep a constant

maintenance in this teaching room. Finally, this learning resource is a valuable tool that permits students to progress in their linguistic skills, so it is important to take actions.

Annex 1

Universidad de Costa Rica, Golfito Branch

Professor Fallas

LM- 1352 English Rhetoric I



Interview for English Professors

The objective of this interview is to get information about the conditions and use of the English Laboratory at UCR, Golfito Branch. Consequently, the answers will be used as valuable arguments to develop the problem-solution essay for the course English Rhetoric I.

Instructions: Answer the following questions in detail.

1. How many years have you worked for UCR? ____
2. When was the Lab installed? ____
3. What is the purpose of the English laboratory?

4. How have students and professor respond to it? Is it useful? Has it accomplished the goals set at the beginning?

5. What are the principal problems that the laboratory presents?

6. What are the possible solutions for these problems?

Annex 2

Universidad de Costa Rica, Recinto de Golfito

Profesora Fallas

LM- 1356 English Rhetoric I.

**Entrevista para Administrativos**

Esta entrevista tiene el objetivo de reunir información sobre las condiciones que presenta el laboratorio de inglés. El resultado de la entrevista será utilizado para desarrollar el ensayo de Problem- Solution del curso denominado English Rhetoric I.

Instrucciones: Responda las siguientes preguntas de manera clara.

Profesión: _____ Cargo _____

1. ¿Cree usted que las condiciones del Laboratorio de Inglés son las más aptas?
¿Por qué?

2. ¿Qué problemas considera usted que presenta el laboratorio?

3. ¿Debe el laboratorio ser mejorado?

4. ¿Cuáles son las dificultades que imposibilitan el mejoramiento de recurso educativo?

5. ¿Qué medidas se han tomado para impulsar el crecimiento del laboratorio?

6. ¿Cuáles podrían ser algunas posibles soluciones de las dificultades que presenta el laboratorio?
